

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USUN N 03664 031820Z

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ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W

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R 031657Z OCT 74

FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5936

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 3664

EXDIS

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJ: VIEWS OF SIMAO ON LATEST CHANGES IN PORTUGAL

1. PORTUGUESE PERMREP SIMAO SPOKE WITH AMBASSADOR BENNETT EVENING OCTOBER 2 AND MADE NO EFFORT CONCEAL HIS CONCERN OVER RECENT TOP-LEVEL GOVERNMENT CHANGES IN LISBON AND GENERAL TREND OF EVENTS. HE DESCRIBED HIMSELF AS ONE WHO WANTED TO SEE "TRUE DEMOCRACY" EVOLVE IN PORTUGAL, BUT SAID THAT FORCES ON THE LEFT WERE TODAY FOLLOWING PATTERN SEEN IN EASTERN EUROPE AFTER WORLD WAR II, AND ELSEWHERE, IN DENOUNCING AS FASCISTS ANYONE WHO DIFFERED WITH THEIR VERSION OF AFFAIRS OR HELD DIFFERENT POLICY VIEWS. SIMAO SAID THAT ONE OF THE THINGS THAT WORRIED HIM MOST AT PRESENT WAS THE GROWTH OF LEFTIST VIGILANTE GROUPS AROUND THE COUNTRY WITH THE ANNOUNCED AIM "TO SAFEGUARD THE APRIL REVOLUTION" AND HIS FEAR THAT THESE VIGILANTE GROUPS WERE ASSEMBLING ARMS CACHES FOR FUTURE EVENTUALITIES. HE COMMENTED THAT, IF ARMS WERE BEING SUPPLIED TO PRIVATE GROUPS AND DISTRIBUTED AROUND THE COUNTRYSIDE, THEN THE SITUATION WOULD BE VERY SERIOUS INDEED.

2. SIMAO WAS LOYALLY SUPPORTING COSTA GOMES AND MAKING ARRANGEMENTS TO DISTRIBUTE LATTER'S STATEMENTS IN UN CIRCLES. HOWEVER, IT WAS CLEAR SIMAO HAS DOUBTS ABOUT WHERE COSTA GOMES REALLY STANDS IN SITUATION. NATURALLY HE DEPLORES
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THE RESIGNATION OF SPINOLA.

3. SIMAO CONFIRMED REPORT FROM EMBASSY LISBON TO EFFECT COSTA GOMES HAS INTENTION OF VISITING U.S. AND APPEARING AT UN, AS EARLIER PLANNED BY SPINOLA. HE SPOKE OF COSTA GOMES ADDRESSING UN ON OCTOBER 25 AND BEING IN WASHINGTON FOR MEETINGS, HOPEFULLY WITH PRESIDENT FORD AND OTHERS, AROUND OCTOBER 23. SCALI

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PERSONAL OPINION, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION, CHIEF OF STATE VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 OCT 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CollinP0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974USUNN03664
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740280-0631
From: USUN NEW YORK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741074/aaaacim.tel
Line Count: 68
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CollinP0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 JUN 2002 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <11 MAR 2003 by CollinP0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VIEWS OF SIMAO ON LATEST CHANGES IN PORTUGAL
TAGS: PINT, OVIP, PO, US, UNGA, (SIMAO), (BENNETT), (GOMES, COSTA)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005